



CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER • 30940 HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD, RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90275 • WEBSITE: WWW.RPVCA.GOV • 310.544.5200

NATURAL COMMUNITIES CONSERVATION PLAN/HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVED



On November 19, 2019, the City Council adopted the Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP). The NCCP/HCP sets aside the 1,400-acre Palos Verdes Nature Preserve in perpetuity for species and habitat preservation. The plan is a component of the City's NCCP/HCP permit from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) designed to set aside the Preserve for regional species and habitat protection while streamlining environmental permitting for public and private infrastructure and development projects city wide.

Under the permit, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC) is established as the Preserve Habitat Manager and conservation easement holder, responsible for habitat restoration, invasive plant removal, and protecting the conservation value of the land. The City is the owner of most of the land, and responsible for managing public use, maintenance, and public safety.

The NCCP/HCP has been a collaborative and public process since its onset in the mid-1990s, involving passionate residents, land owners, Preserve users, the USFWS, the CDFW, PVPLC, and the City. It was a momentous decision to pursue and adopt the NCCP/HCP, and the City is looking forward to working cooperatively with other agencies to implement it. For more information, please reach out to the Recreation and Parks Department at 310.544.5267.

GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION OFFICIAL RESULTS

The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Official Statement of Votes Cast for the November 5, 2019, General Municipal Election determined that Planning Commissioner David Bradley, Barbara Ferraro, who served on Council previously during 1995 to 2003, and incumbent Ken Dyda captured the three open seats on the Rancho Palos Verdes City Council. All three were elected for a full term of three years and will replace Mayor Jerry Duhovic and Councilwoman Susan Brooks, who were both termed out.



Also, Measure B known as the hospitality working conditions ordinance failed to pass with 78% of the votes opposed.

Council Members Ken Dyda, David Bradley, and Barbara Ferraro were sworn in at the December 3 City Council meeting.

CIVIC CENTER MASTER PLAN MOVES FORWARD



City Council approved a Parks Master Plan Update in 2015 which included a recommendation for a separate Master Plan process for the Point Vicente Park/Civic Center property, the site of RPV City Hall. Since that decision, the City sent out a survey to all residents in 2017, formed a Civic Center Advisory Committee (CCAC) and enlisted the pro bono assistance of the renowned architecture design firm, M. Arthur Gensler Jr. & Associates (Gensler). Using the results of the survey and a well-attended 2018 open forum, Staff, CCAC and Gensler began putting together a draft program document to identify the various types and sizes of components to be considered for the site. On October 15, 2019, the City Council approved a program document with the following potential components: a new City Hall (smaller than the current City Hall square footage), Council chambers, an L.A. County Sheriff's Department substation and medium fire station, an emergency operations center (EOC), a community center, trailhead facilities, extensive landscaping and open space, a computer training room, and potential Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy office space. The LA County Fire Department and LA County Sheriff's Department have expressed initial interest in both having stations at City Hall and funding their construction.

The program document is a guide for developing a detailed Park Master Plan. The next stages in that process were also approved by City Council on October 15: an environmental impact report for the site; a Request for Proposals with two phases for an architect to provide master plan design services and construction drawings; the hiring of a professional financial consultant; and the hiring of a consultant to locate existing underground

continued on page 2

CRIME BUSTER CORNER



SCHOOL SAFETY: SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The safety and well-being of its student population is a top City priority. Rancho Palos Verdes, along with the three other Peninsula cities, supported that goal by appropriating funds to partially cover the expense of two armed Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District Resource Officers. Two former Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Sergeants have been hired through Allied Universal, a well-respected security firm to serve as School Resource Officers. One officer will be stationed at Peninsula High School and the other at Palos Verdes High School, although both will be available to go to other PVPUSD school sites as needed. The officers will work closely with students, faculty, administrators, law enforcement personnel and the general public to minimize crime and undesired behaviors, and improve overall campus safety. The four Peninsula cities contributed a combined \$150,000 towards the annual cost of the contract, with Rancho Palos Verdes paying \$97,500 based on its 65% portion of the total student population.

Prst-STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Torrence
Permit # 194
Ecr-WSS

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES
30940 HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD
RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90275

SWALE OF A DAY



Beverly Hills may have cement ponds, but RPV has cement creeks. The rainy season will be here before you know it. Now is a good time to check and clean-out the drainage swales on your property so that they're ready for the rain.

Drainage swales, also referred to as "bench drains" or "V-ditches," tend to become filled with leaves, overgrown vegetation, and debris over the course of the year. If you

have a drainage swale on your property, it's your responsibility to maintain it so that it functions properly. So in advance of the rain this season, make sure your drainage swales are clear of debris and overgrown vegetation to ensure proper drainage flow.

As an additional reminder, the City's Municipal Code does not permit the construction of any structure within or above a drainage swale, or on a 35% or greater slope. This includes decks, stairs, or structures of any kind. Please keep this in mind if you're planning a project near or on a slope. It's always a good idea to contact the Community Development Department before starting any project to determine if approvals and/or permits will be required.

CIVIC CENTER MASTER PLAN (Continued from page 1)

infrastructure. Long-standing federal restrictions on the site were recently lifted clearing the way for adding public safety uses on the Civic Center site.

The project has a long, long way to go. Significant public input will continue to take place every step of the way. This outreach effort will include public workshops, meetings with adjacent HOAs, interested parties, website updates, Nextdoor notifications, and Listserv messages. The program document, the October 15 Staff report, the CCAC agendas, minutes and other information; is available at <http://www.rpvca.gov/1009/Civic-Center-Master-Plan>. Go to the City's Notify Me page at <https://ca-ranchopalosverdes2.civicplus.com/list.aspx> to sign up for future updates and public workshops.

STREETLIGHT UPGRADES: JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

At a time when some property owners are decorating with lights for the holidays, the City finished replacing existing high pressure sodium (HPS) streetlights with LED (light Emitting Diode) fixtures in November. The City successfully purchased 1,764 streetlights from Southern California Edison (SCE) in June 2019, and the new fixtures, coupled with City ownership (even when factoring in maintenance) is estimated to save the City approximately \$30,000 annually. The new fixtures are compliant with the City's "Dark Sky" ordinance, are more environmentally friendly, and a 3000K color temperature was chosen to avoid the cooler blue color seen in LED streetlights in other cities. As was also the case with the HPS lights, residents that experience light shining into their windows can request "light shields" to be installed at no cost to the resident. Such requests can be made by contacting the Public Works department at 310.544.5252.

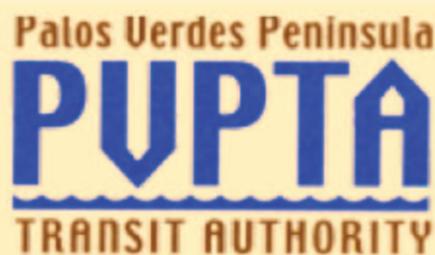


THE NOT SO LONE RANGER PROGRAM



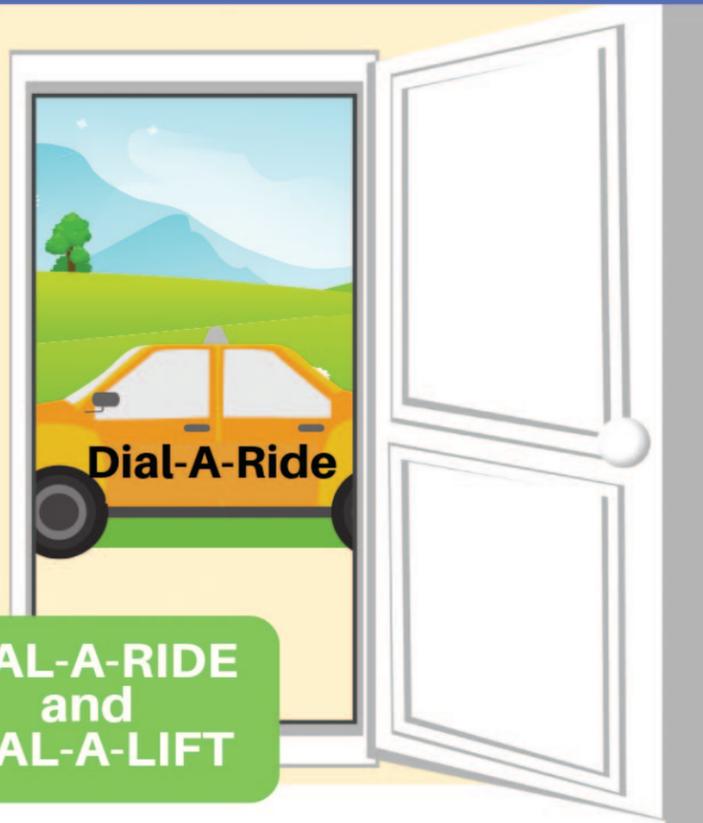
Look out Smokey and Yogi Bear, the Recreation and Parks Department will be starting a Ranger Program in early 2020. Hey Boo Boo, no Lone Ranger here... four rangers will patrol City open space, including the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve to enforce rules and educate the public. Rangers will receive specialized interpretive and enforcement training, and will be certified to issue citations. In the past, the City has contracted with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and the L.A. County Sheriff's Department for dedicated Preserve enforcement, and has received excellent service from

both agencies. This new program will more than double the ranger presence in the City's open spaces, and is a significant and exciting step toward enhancing the public's enjoyment of the City's open spaces, public safety, and protecting the City's natural resources.



**Your doorway to travel around the
Palos Verdes Peninsula**

***OFF PENINSULA FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES ONLY**



**DIAL-A-RIDE
and
DIAL-A-LIFT**

(310) 544-7108

Serving
**Seniors and Residents with disabilities
in Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos
Verdes, Rolling Hills Estates and
unincorporated Peninsula areas of
Los Angeles County.**

**FOR MEMBERSHIP
INFORMATION**

www.palosverdes.com/pvtransit/

WHALE OF A DAY CELEBRATION 2020

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

APRIL 18, 2020

10 am - 4 pm

**Point Vicente Interpretive Center
31501 Palos Verdes Drive West**

For more opportunities and events, see the Recreation Activity Guide

(APRIL 25, 2020 - WOAD RAIN DATE)

PVIC SELLS SEASHELLS (AND MUCH MORE) BY THE SEASHORE

Stop by the Point Vicente Interpretive Center gift shop for a one-of-a-kind holiday shopping experience!

Shop, then step outside, watch for whales, and enjoy the sunset!

Our gift shop features décor, stocking stuffers, books, home accessories, and plush toys that celebrate the coastal beauty of our peninsula paradise.



The Point Vicente Interpretive Center and gift shop is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. **For your shopping convenience we will be open until 9pm on December 11.** We are closed Thanksgiving Day, December 24th and 25th, and New Year's Day. PVIC is located at 31501 Palos Verdes Drive West, next to the Point Vicente Lighthouse.

HAPPY TRAILS SEGMENT TO YOU



Photo credit: John Collins, Contract Inspector - Sunbeam Consulting

If you are looking for a good-looking trail segment, look no further than the Deadman's Curve Segment of the Palos Verdes Loop Trail. This improved trail segment boasts a new decomposed granite surface for improved footing, a wider trail width to allow easier passage for horses and other trail users, and lodge-pole fence segments with new roadway guardrails for increased safety. Take a moment out of your busy day to visit this improved trail, located at one of the entrances to the City, on Palos Verdes Drive East at the border with Rolling Hills Estates.

HOWL TO DEAL WITH COYOTES



The City's Coyote Management Plan was updated last year to be more relevant and consistent with those in the cities of Rolling Hills Estates and Palos Verdes Estates, and input received from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), which administers the Coyote Wildlife Watch Program. The revised plan is available on the City's website at <http://www.rpvca.gov/1113/Coyote-Management-Plan>.

In Rancho Palos Verdes, when a resident has a concern about a coyote in their area, the City recommends following the guidelines in the Management Plan and other handout material on decreasing attractants and increasing pet safety in order to help shape coyote behavior to avoid human contact. A resident may contact the City's Code Enforcement Division with any questions or to report an aggressive coyote. The City's Code Enforcement Division is trained to conduct property assessments to assist property owners in minimizing coyote attractants.

The City also has been on the forefront in disseminating public information and brochures on living with urban coyotes, as well as methods to deter coyotes from entering properties. Residents can report coyote activities via the City's web-based platform application by clicking <http://coyotesightings.rpvca.gov>.

It should be noted that hours and services that the county has provided to the Peninsula for animal-related matters have drastically increased since 2017. There is now a full-time dedicated deputy from the Agricultural Commissioner who canvasses the Peninsula on Mondays through Thursdays, and occasionally on Fridays, between approximately 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information about coyotes, you can also visit <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/what-do-about-coyotes> or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife website at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild/Coyote>.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you feel there is a coyote in your neighborhood that is dangerous or has shown aggressive behavior, please contact City Code Enforcement Officer Rudy Monroy at 310.544.5296 or via email at rmonroy@rpvca.gov. If you encounter a sick, lethargic, injured, or dead coyote, contact Los Angeles County Animal Control at 310.523.9566.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING: SMART TRAFFIC SIGNAL LIGHT TECHNOLOGY

Traffic congestion and vehicular emissions are some of the major issues faced by road users today. According to a recent annual mobility study, the average commuter spends about 119 hours per year in traffic jams in Los Angeles. Smart traffic signal lights have been developed to optimize signal timings while allocating green "go" time based on vehicle presence, vehicle count and flow-through data collected by detectors at intersections.



Traffic signal lights used to run on a set time schedule regardless of what was happening on the road. With these new smart traffic signals, the software in the system can tell when congestion is occurring, and alert the next set of intersections about the traffic heading that way. The timing of the lights adjusts to keep the traffic moving as efficiently as possible. The more up-to-date software consistently analyzes the traffic every minute and subsequently allows the system to make changes for rush hours, holiday traffic, or one-time back-ups. The traffic lights are synchronized with the goal that a driver operating a vehicle at the posted speed limit will be able to cross all the intersections without needing to stop.

The vehicles are detected either by loop detectors or cameras. The loop detectors are installed under the pavement and are close to the intersection. They are designed to detect motorcyclists and bicyclists as well. The camera detectors are installed on top of signal lights and aim at the intersection to detect traffic which queues behind intersection.

Rancho Palos Verdes is already utilizing this new technology successfully. The loop detectors have been installed and the traffic signal lights are synchronized along Hawthorne Boulevard. RPV will be considering the next phase of smart traffic signal light design concept in future traffic signal projects to enhance efficiency and keep traffic moving safely and smoothly.

DON'T FEEL THE BURN!

RESIDENTIAL NO-BURN ALERT SEASON HAS BEGUN

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) issued its first No Burn Alert of the season on November 4 for residential fireplaces and outdoor fire pits and wood stoves when stagnant weather raises fine particulate pollution to unhealthy levels. Alerts will be issued only during winter months (November through February) for specific areas or the entire South Coast Air Basin, depending on forecast conditions. During an alert, AQMD requires that residents refrain from all indoor and outdoor wood burning. To find out more about the No-Burn program, visit aqmd.gov/cbyb and to sign up for alerts, go to AirAlerts.org.



MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS: ANNUAL BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL AND UPDATES



BUSINESS LICENSE TAX FOR HOME BASED BUSINESSES ELIMINATED

On June 4, 2019, City Council approved reducing the annual business license tax for home occupancy businesses to \$0 during Fiscal Year 2019-20. This change became effective September 6, 2019. The tax reduction was made as part of City Council's continued efforts to decrease taxes and fees for the residents of Rancho Palos Verdes.

BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL PROCESS

Business license renewal applications are due prior to commencing operations and expire each December 31. In mid-December, City staff will mail 2020 business license renewal applications to all currently-licensed businesses. This application should be completed and returned with payment to City Hall by January 31, 2020. Upon receiving a completed renewal application and license tax payment, a 2020 Business Tax Certificate will be mailed to the business. Penalties will be assessed on any license application received on or after February 1, 2020, at 5% for each month delinquent up to 50% of the total license tax. No extensions or waivers of the penalty amount will be granted.

HOW DO I COMPLETE A BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL?

The renewal application is easy, takes only minutes to finish, and can be completed in one of three ways:

- Online:** File on line by going to the City's website at <https://rpvpay.com/businesslicense>. Then, simply follow the step-by-step instructions.
- By Mail:** Return the application and your check made payable to "City of Rancho Palos Verdes" to the following address:
City of Rancho Palos Verdes
Attention: Business License
30940 Hawthorne Blvd.
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
- In Person:** You can also pay your renewal in person at City Hall, within the Community Development Department.

Questions: contact the Business License Coordinator at 310.544.5301. For additional information, refer to Chapter 5.04 of the City's Municipal Code or visit the City of Rancho Palos Verdes website.

SWEEPING CHANGES



Streets in RPV are swept twice a month. If one of your regular street sweeping days falls on the 4th Wednesday of each month (December 25) or on the 1st Wednesday of each month (January 1), it will be delayed by one day due to the holidays. Sweeping will be

performed on Thursday, December 26 and January 2 instead. On sweeping days, please try to remove parked cars from the street to allow for optimal sweeping of your street.

HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

EDCO 310.540.2977 or www.RPVrecycles.com

December 2019: No service on Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day. There will be a one-day delay in collection for Wednesday through Friday routes.

January 2020: No service on Wednesday, January 1, New Year's Day. There will be a one-day delay in collection for Wednesday through Friday routes.

Any questions, call EDCO at 310.540.2977 or www.rpvrecycles.com. Leave all containers at the curb no later than 7 a.m. on collection day.

In accordance with the City's Municipal Code, remove all empty containers no later than 10 p.m. on collection day. Empty carts **MUST NOT** be left on the street overnight. Help keep our City Streets Beautiful!

BACKYARD SERVICE: EDCO provides backyard service to customers at an additional monthly charge. If you have temporary or permanent physical or medical limitations, or travel out of town frequently, call EDCO at 310.540.2977 to inquire about this service.



CITY HALL PHONE NUMBERS

City Hall Main Line

City Manager's Office
City Clerk's Office
Finance
Community Development
Human Resources
Public Works
Recreation and Parks
Building & Safety Division
Code Enforcement



310.544.5200

310.544.5207
310.544.5217
310.544.5304
310.544.5228
310.544.5327
310.544.5252
310.544.5260
310.544.5280
310.544.5281

CITY COUNCIL

John Cruikshank, Mayor
Email: john.cruikshank@rpvca.gov

Eric Alegria, Mayor Pro Tem
Email: eric.alegria@rpvca.gov

Dave Bradley, Councilmember
Email: david.bradley@rpvca.gov

Ken Dyda, Councilmember
Email: ken.dyda@rpvca.gov

Barbara Ferraro, Councilmember
Email: barbara.ferraro@rpvca.gov

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES NEWSLETTER



Editors: Gabriella Yap and Matt Waters

Winter 2020 Newsletter and Recreation Insert Contributors:

Megan Barnes, Andrew Berg, Ara Mihranian, Chris Browning, Emily Colborn, Mary Hirsch, Katie Lozano, Karen Okstad, Louise Olfarnes (PVPLC), James O'Neill, Lauren Ramezani, Emily Rodin, Elias Sassoon, Stephanie Valencia, Matt Waters, Gabriella Yap

Comments? Email mattw@rpvca.gov or call 310.544.5218

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN



Looking for a part-time job? The City of Rancho Palos Verdes Recreation and Parks Department is hiring! We are looking for Recreation Leaders to work in our parks, community centers, Nature Preserve, and with the REACH Program for youth and adults with developmental disabilities. No previous experience is required, but candidates should have a passion for service and the outdoors, and excellent customer service and communication skills. The Recreation and Parks Department provides high-quality parks and facilities and offers a variety of safe, affordable, and innovative programs that enhance the well-being of the community. For more information, contact the Recreation and Parks Department at parks@rpvca.gov or 310.544.5260 or visit www.rpvca.gov.



GREEN CORNER



MANDATORY COMMERCIAL ORGANICS RECYCLING - STATEWIDE

AB 1826, Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling (MORE), enacted in 2016, established statewide regulations for recycling organic waste. Organic waste (organics) means food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, nonhazardous wood waste, and food-soiled paper waste that is mixed in with food waste.

**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE**



Businesses: Since January 1, 2019, businesses that generate 4 cubic yards or more of solid waste (trash) per week are required to arrange for organic waste recycling services. If you are an owner or manager of a business that is currently required to recycle organics, and do not do so, please contact your hauler immediately and/or your management company to arrange for organic waste recycling services.

These are statewide regulations and apply to anywhere your business is located! Therefore, if you have any questions or need to learn more, click on this CalRecycle site: <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/Organics/Business/>. If you are an RPV business owner or manager, and are experiencing difficulties with your hauler in implementing this mandatory regulation, please contact Public Works at 310.544.5252 or publicworks@rpvca.gov.

Multi-Family (M/F) Residential Complexes (including apartments, townhomes and condominiums): The M/F complexes' organic waste requirement is limited to complexes with 5 or more units, and is applicable to their green waste/yard waste only. Food waste diversion is not required at this time! Since January 1, 2019, MF complexes, with 5 or more units, that generate 4 cubic yards or more of solid waste (trash) per week are required to arrange for green waste/yard waste recycling services. If you are an owner or manager of a M/F complex with 5 or more units, you are required to recycle green waste. If you are not recycling your greens, please contact EDCO at 310.540.2977 to arrange for services ASAP. If your landscaper is hauling your yard waste, make sure it is taken to a recycling facility and ask for documentation.

BULKY ITEM AND ELECTRONIC WASTE COLLECTION

Did Santa place new electronics under the tree? What do you do with the old ones? You have two good choices:

Choice #1 - Donate your furniture, electronics, toys or appliances that are in good working condition. Do not let reusable items go to a landfill! Contact a charitable organization.



Choice #2 - EDCO offers customers free (limited) collection of bulky and electronic items such as sofas, TVs, computers, mattresses, desks, etc. Call EDCO and arrange for a free curbside pickup at 310.540.2977.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Recycling your Christmas tree is easy. Remove the base, ornaments, tinsel and garland. Then leave your Christmas tree at the curb on your regular collection day between December 26 and January 15. Flocked trees are also acceptable and will be recycled. There is no need to cut the tree into smaller pieces (unless it is over 6 feet tall).

If you live in a multi-family complex, contact your management company or HOA for the designated tree drop-off location. This location is typically in the garage area or by the recycling bins.

